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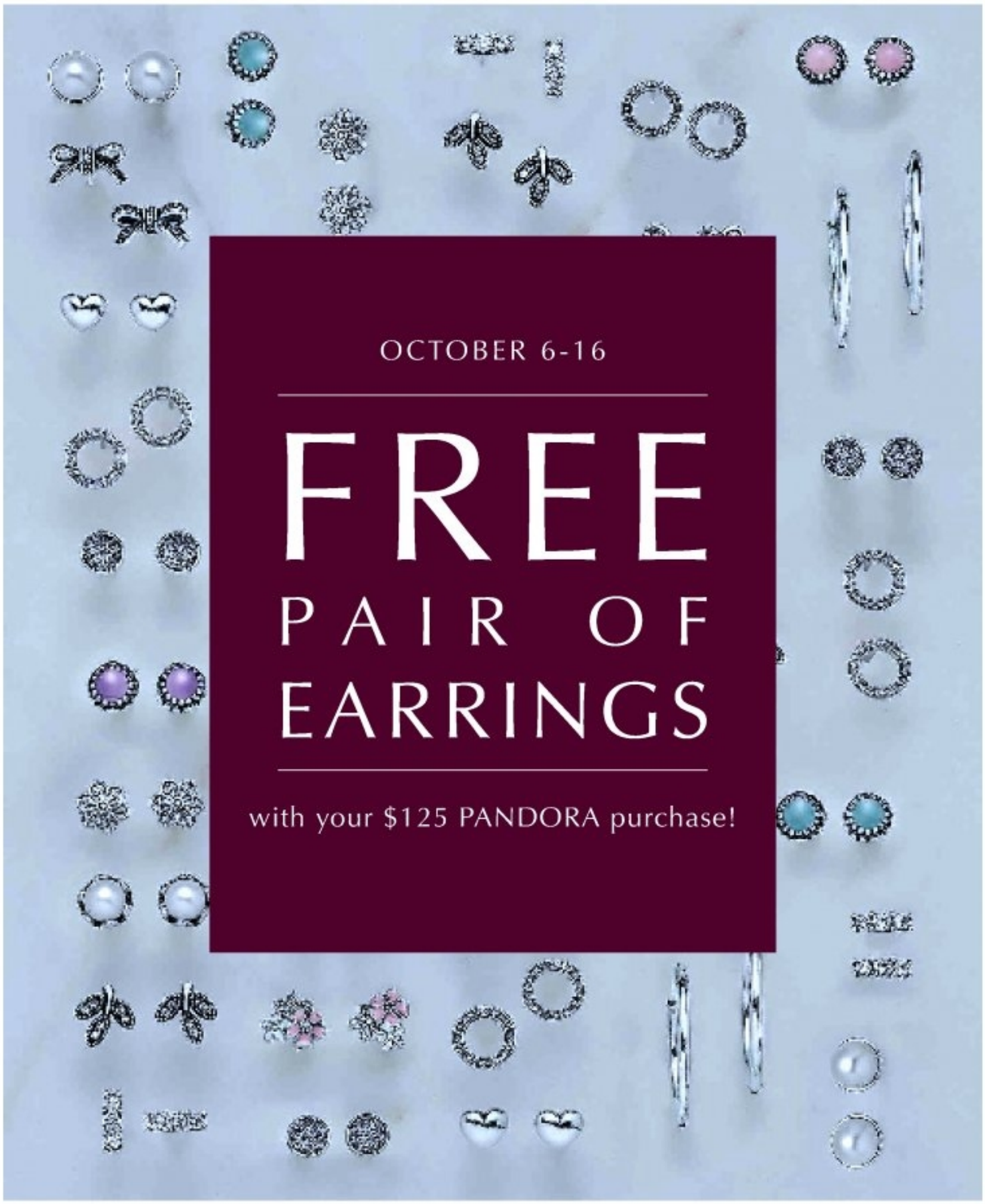

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COURTESY BARRIE MARTELLE OF BARRIE MARTELLE PHOTOGRAPHY

An affordable ticket to ride promised, but...

2017 BUDGET

Mayor mum on how much low-income riders will save

Emma Jackson
Metro | Ottawa

Ottawa's most vulnerable are getting affordable transit — but just how affordable, we don't yet know.

Mayor Jim Watson announced Tuesday the 2017 budget will include a low-income transit pass, to the delight of anti-poverty advocates who had pushed unsuccessfully for the same discount in 2016.

"To have that little bit more money every month, it's just going to make such a big difference for people," said Lisa Quesnel, a single mother of three who has struggled to afford transit in the past. "This is such a big step that we're being acknowledged, that, yes, the city has a need."

Trevor Haché with the Healthy Transportation Coalition welcomed the news but was eager for more details, since Watson didn't reveal what the 8,800 eligible users will be asked to pay.

Watson said that information will be released Nov. 9 with the draft budget.

For Haché, anything more than $41.75 a month is likely too much.

"Anything higher than that, we can't expect low-income folks to reasonably afford," he said.

Watson promised the pass will offer "a very significant discount" from the adult general monthly fare, and confirmed it won't be subsidized by other users. Nor will it change how much taxpayers contribute to transit, he said.

The pass will be available in the first quarter of 2017.

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Your essential daily news

Coffee gets a serious price hike at a Toronto coffee shop — but only for women. **Canada**

More work to be done

INFRASTRUCTURE

Advocates call on city to keep up funding after collision drop

Emma Jackson
Metro | Ottawa

Our work's not finished yet. That was the message from road safety advocates Tuesday after Metro published unreleased police data showing big drops in cycling and pedestrian collisions last year.

The raw Ottawa police numbers revealed that reported cycling and pedestrian collisions in 2015 dropped 21 per cent and 40 per cent, respectively, over 2014.

That follows a general downward trend, particularly for cyclists, as collisions rates have remained relatively flat while the number of bikes on the road has increased.

The good news is partly thanks to continued investments in cycling and pedestrian infrastructure, but the city's still got more to do on behalf of vulnerable road users, said Somerset Coun. Catherine McKenney.

"We still have a ways to go before it becomes automatic for the way that we're designing our roads," McKenney said.

Main Street will soon reopen as a complete street, and the new O'Connor north-south bikeway is under construction.

New Ottawa police data shows cycling and pedestrian collisions dropped in 2015. ALL PHOTOS EMMA JACKSON/METRO

But the car-centric Booth Street bridge was a missed opportunity, McKenney said, and the extent of Elgin Street's complete street transformation in 2018 remains to be seen.

"Elgin is going to be a test of how serious we are about protecting our most vulnerable users," McKenney said. "Do we continue to prioritize vehicles and vehicle storage over cyclist safety or pedestrian safety?"

McKenney has been pushing the city to adopt a Vision Zero framework which would set bold targets and monitor our success in meeting them.

"I continue to advocate for zero serious injuries and deaths on our roads," she said.

Alex deVries with Citizens for Safe Cycling agreed a formal monitoring system is the only way we're truly going to know where the problems exist and how well we're addressing them.

"As soon as we start looking at the road from the perspective of all kinds of road users, we're going to do a better job of making it safer for all road users," he added.

He's particularly concerned about pedestrians, who typically suffer more collisions than cyclists each year.

The city has installed more than 50 new pedestrian crossovers across Ottawa this summer, and more and more busy intersections feature advanced pedestrian signals.

But deVries said the city could do even more encourage pedestrians to actually cross when and where they're supposed to. Timing could be tweaked, crosswalk locations could be altered and automatic walk signals — rather than requiring the person to push a "beg button" — would all increase safety, deVries said.

"The city needs to build infrastructure where people want to obey the rules, because they work for them," deVries said.

I've always contended it is safe to cycle in the city, and it becomes safer as we add more infrastructure.

Coun. Catherine McKenney

The data is telling us ... there's greater awareness of different road users. Everybody is getting used to the fact that the roadway is shared.

Coun. Tobi Nussbaum

A surprise to me is that pedestrian collisions have been going down, because we haven't seen a significant increase in pedestrian infrastructure.

Alex deVries

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Fundraising ban is closer

LEGISLATION

Opposition says Libs aren't interested in input

Ontario is one step closer to banning all provincial politicians and would-be politicians from fundraising.

Election finance reform legislation passed second reading Tuesday, which means it will now go to public committee hearings — though the opposition parties say the governing Liberals aren't interested in input.

The bill had a rare round of hearings after first reading, but the Progressive Conservatives and NDP complained that the majority Liberals did not take their suggested amendments into consideration.

Instead, the Liberals announced a surprise proposal to ban members of the provincial legislature from fundraising, which they said they would introduce as an amendment after second reading.

Details were slim at the time, but the Liberals have since said that the ban will include not just elected politicians, but also candidates, leadership contestants and nomination contestants.

But the opposition parties say the problem lies with fundraising events that see cabinet ministers attend high-priced functions with stakeholders, not politicians charging small amounts at barbecue fundraisers or contestants fundraising to launch a bid to be a party's nominee in a riding.

"It's the Liberals kind of trying to ... hide their own bad behaviour under this issue," said NDP Leader Andrea Horwath. "Look, there's a huge difference between a $10,000-a-plate fundraiser where people are buying access to cabinet minister ... (and) a $10-a-plate corn roast at a local riding."

Progressive Conservative Leader Patrick Brown suggested the outright fundraising ban is simply a distraction from other "loopholes" the Liberals are leaving in the bill, such as not counting it as a corporate donation when companies pay for staff members to work on a party's campaign, Brown said.

Attorney General Yasir Naqvi wouldn't say what other changes the Liberals might make to the bill after the next round of hearings, but one he suggested he was not in favour of was making polling and research expenses count toward election spending caps.

"We feel that those type of things don't go to the day-to-day operations of any campaign," he said. "When it comes to expense limits they always tend to focus on the day-to-day operations of a campaign, not research and polling that would help develop policy and strategy."

Naqvi said the reason the ban extends to all politicians is because they all have some degree of influence.

The legislation would also ban corporate and union donations, and include a per-vote subsidy for parties and riding associations to offset the loss of fundraising dollars.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Attorney General Yasir Naqvi says he is not in favour of making polling and research expenses count toward election spending caps. ANDREW FRANCIS WALLACE/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

EDUCATION

Parents pushing to save school

Regina Street Public School parents and students are asking the public school board to save their school.

The school is one of several the board is considering closing through its western area accommodation review process.

The review suggests the closure of Regina Street Public School and its students be moved to D. Roy Kennedy Public School, which is about two kilometres away.

Parents found out about the potential closure last May, in what parent Heather Amundrud, who has a daughter in Grade 4 and a son in Grade 2 at the school, said was a bit of a cryptic letter.

At the time, the school didn't even have an official school council, but since then, parents have mobilized to get a formal council and are pushing for parents in the catchment area to write letters and speak at board meetings to have the school stay open.

They are even offering solutions, like increasing the catchment area and making the school a JK to 8, instead of having the Grade 7 and Grade 8 students at another school.

MELISSA MURRAY/METROLAND MEDIA

The public school board is recommending closure of Regina Street Public School. MELISSA MURRAY/METROLAND MEDIA

SAFETY

Most of road deaths preventable: Report

A report says a the vast majority of the 1,507 deaths on provincial police-patrolled roads between 2011 and 2015 were preventable.

The OPP report says over the five-year period, inattentive driving was a factor in 408 deaths, speeding in 336 deaths, failure to wear a seat belt in 335 deaths, while alcohol and drugs contributed to 321 deaths.

408
Inattentive driving was a top factor in deaths.

Over the coming Thanksgiving long weekend, police say they plan to target those four main behaviours that continue to road deaths — alcohol and drugs, speed, inattentive driving and lack of seat belt use.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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MISSING WOMEN VIGIL HELD AT PARLIAMENT HILL A woman burns sage during a rally for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Tuesday. ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Don't destroy our cave, petition says

QUEBEC

Abandoned mine, tourist hot spot at risk of demolition

Haley Ritchie
Metro | Ottawa

An abandoned Quebec mine that's been described as an underground cathedral is at risk of being demolished after its popularity has resulted in trash, parking issues and angry locals.

A sudden influx of breathtaking Instagram pictures and YouTube exploration videos has increased the location's number of visitors. But the site — roughly an hour's drive from Ottawa — isn't equipped to deal with hundreds of people, and all the garbage, broken bottles, cars and human waste have left locals frustrated.

The response has been a crackdown on trespassers and a final notice from Quebec's Ministry of Natural Resources directed at officials in the Papineau region.

The ministry says a tourist plan needs to be created quickly, or the mine will be dynamited for safety reasons.

Chantal Crête doesn't want to see that happen. She's created a petition to spread the word and said the Friends of the Mine group has been surprised by the huge response.

> Perhaps the threat of dynamite is the best thing that could happen to it. In the sense it woke people up. Chantal Crête, Friends of the Mine

"You know at first we were very concerned and very sad about the whole situation, but looking back now, perhaps the threat of dynamite is the best thing that could happen to it," said Crête. "In the sense it woke people up."

"It's such a spectacular place. There's no way we can let that unique place be destroyed. It has so much potential," she said.

Crête recognizes the current issues with the site, but wants to see some investment to make it tourist-friendly and give it a geological heritage designation.

"My heart goes to the people living there, really. If I was a citizen there I'd probably have been one of the first to denounce the situation," said Crête. "But we're smart enough to sit around the table and find some solutions.

"There's a way to do so in respect to the people that live around there and the respect of the environment too."

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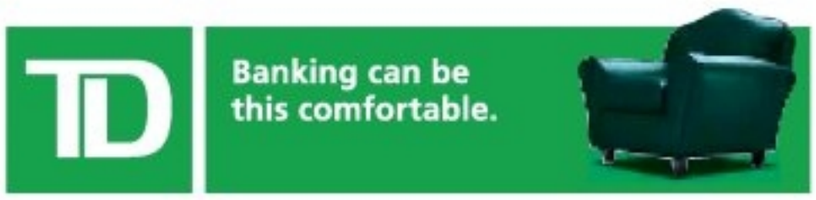

[1] Based on a comparison of 2015 Aeroplan Flight Reward bookings against actual market base fares and leading financial institutions' travel rewards programs' terms and conditions. [2] Welcome Bonus of 15,000 Aeroplan Miles ("Welcome Bonus Miles") will be awarded to the Aeroplan Member account associated with the TD Aeroplan *Visa Infinite* Card Account ("Account") only after the first Purchase is made on the Account. To receive the additional 10,000 Aeroplan Miles, you must also: (a) apply for an Account between September 3, 2016, and December 2, 2016; and (b) make $1,000 in Purchases on your Account, including your first Purchase, within 90 days of Account approval. To receive the additional 5,000 Aeroplan Miles you must also (a) Add an Authorized User between September 3, 2016, and December 2, 2016; (b) Authorized User must call and activate their Card by January 16, 2017, and (c) your Account must be in good standing at the time this 5,000 Bonus Aeroplan Miles is awarded. You can have a maximum of three (3) Authorized Users on your Account but you will only receive 1 (one) 5,000 Bonus Aeroplan Miles offer. Annual Fee for each Authorized User Card added to the Account will apply. The Primary Cardholder is responsible for all charges to the Account, including those made by any Authorized User. If you have opened an Account in the last 6 months, you will not be eligible for these offers. We reserve the right to limit the number of Accounts opened by and the number of miles awarded to any one person. Please allow 8 weeks after the conditions for each offer are fulfilled for the miles to be credited to your Aeroplan Member account. Offers may be changed, withdrawn or extended at any time and cannot be combined with any other offer unless otherwise specified. These miles are not eligible for Aeroplan status. All trade-marks are property of their respective owners. ® The Air Canada maple leaf logo and Air Canada are registered trade-marks of Air Canada, used under license. ® The Aeroplan logo and Aeroplan are registered trade-marks of Aimia Canada Inc. ® The TD logo and other trade-marks are the property of The Toronto-Dominion Bank.

Trio trying to save trees

ENVIRONMENT

Men want city to buy woodlots to preserve urban forests

A trio of residents wants to keep more woodland in Riverside South from the chopping block as the fast-growing community develops.

A community design plan that works as a blueprint to manage future growth and development was finalized and approved earlier this year. But it prompted concern about the size of protected woodlots.

Bruce Lindsay, who has lived in Riverside South for a decade, said preserving what could be turned into nature parks or urban forests would benefit everyone, as well as wildlife that lives in the area, including fox, deer, coyotes and wild turkeys.

"That's hard to come by so why would you destroy it?" he said.

He thinks the city had enough time to save up funds to buy chunks of woodlots, and that too much preference is being given to constructing recreational amenities.

From left: Martin Cashin, Bruce Lindsay and Scott Thiel, president of the Riverside South Community Association, stand before a new housing development. Behind the homes is a stand of trees they hope can be protected. ERIN MCCRACKEN / METROLAND MEDIA

But Gloucester-South Nepean Coun. Michael Qaqish said it didn't make sense to keep poor quality woodland that would become a mosquito breeding ground.

> **The community needs to be involved.**
> Bruce Lindsay

City planner Nicholas Stow went to the woodlot site and did not recommend the city buy more of the land.

"At some point you've got to say we're not spending dozens of millions of dollars — which is what it would be — to preserve trees," Qaqish said, adding residents expect money to be spent on services, and securing a community centre, library and transit.

Qaqish said he went back to staff and pushed them to preserve more woodland in response to feedback. The city purchased an additional 1.1 hectares to create a 3.6-hectare woodlot south of Earl Armstrong Road and west of Canyon Walk Drive.

Those opposing the city's approval of the plan did have the option of appealing to the Ontario Municipal Board to try to reverse the decision about the woodlots, but Lindsay said there was little point and that it would have been expensive.

There is also a desire to organize a residents' committee to examine how development moves forward in Riverside South, and to ensure people are engaged and responsive when it is time for the city to develop a new master parks plan.

"The community needs to be involved," Lindsay said. "Everybody has a stake." ERIN MCCRACKEN/ METROLAND MEDIA

SAFETY

Homes evacuated in gas leak

Two homes east of Alta Vista were evacuated Tuesday because of a gas leak.

Ottawa firefighters got a call from Enbridge Gas Distribution at 9:50 a.m. saying a construction crew hit a gas line near 1869 Devlin Cres., said Danielle Cardinal with Ottawa Fire Services.

The homes on either side of the leak were evacuated as a precaution, she said.

An Enbridge crew arrived an hour later and found that the ruptured pipe was relatively small and that there was no imminent danger, Cardinal said. Residents could then return to their homes. ADAM KVIETON/FOR METRO

IN BRIEF

Woman confined in vehicle

Provincial police say a 24-year-old man is facing charges after an incident Saturday on Highway 416 in Ottawa. It's alleged a man would not allow a female passenger in his vehicle to get out.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sexual Assault on Campus: A Metro Special Focus — Day 3: The U.S. & U.K examples

We're not in this alone

Canada is far from the only nation struggling to recognize and combat campus sexual assault, but we're well behind the more proactive U.S. and only so far ahead of the lagging U.K.

Rosemary Westwood
Metro | Toronto

In 1985, the year I was born, the feminist Ms. Magazine published a groundbreaking national survey of campus rape in the U.S.

There has since been research in New Zealand, Canada and the U.K. — and Australia is about to embark on a landmark 40-school study.

So: The struggle to admit to, get a clear picture of and eliminate campus sexual assault is as old as I am; and Canada is by no means alone.

In fact, in terms of government regulation and accountability, we're stuck somewhere in between the more advanced U.S. and the lagging U.K.

* * *

In the American system, education falls under federal jurisdiction. That has been key to a far more aggressive and proactive stance on campus-sexual assault. President Barack Obama's high-profile focus is only the latest chapter.

In 1990, the U.S. passed the Clery Act, which made it mandatory for universities to report sexual assaults, to have a dedicated policy and to offer supports for survivors. There was also Title IX, an amendment to education laws forbidding discrimination on the basis of sex. It was first passed in 1972 and began to be applied to sexual assault and harassment in the 1980s, beginning with a policy memorandum from the Office of Civil Rights at the Department of Education. That led to sexual-assault-survivor lawsuits against schools.

But then came Gebser v. Lago Vista Independent School District. The 1998 U.S. Supreme Court ruling, which centred on sexual misconduct between a teacher and student at a Texas high school, but which also applied to post-secondary institutions, held that schools were only liable for sexual assaults and harassment if they did not act after learning of them.

The ruling had a chilling effect on the lawsuits, and a period of inertia and apathy followed, said Michele Dauber, a Stanford law professor and leading advocate on campus sexual assault. Schools "became much more worried about being sued by these alleged perpetrators," she said.

In 2011, the Obama administration released its 19-page "Dear Colleague" letter — a directive from the U.S. Department of Education — that called sexual violence discriminatory and a crime and explicitly stated universities' requirements to deal with it.

"It was pretty minimal," Dauber said. "It was, 'Stop violating civil rights.... You have to have a prompt and equitable resolution of complaints, and you have to tell the victim the outcome.'"

After the letter, students began filing complaints to the Office for Civil Rights. In May of 2014, the agency had more than 50 open files against schools, including Harvard and Princeton.

That same year, Obama launched the White House Task Force to Protect Students from Sexual Assault and the "It's On Us" campaign to raise awareness about sexual assault, for which Vice-President Joe Biden has become a strident spokesperson.

* * *

In the U.K., thanks to guidance over two decades old, some universities have avoided any kind of reporting or disciplinary policies around sexual assault. And there is no national legislation mandating either.

In 1994, Graham Zellick, then president of Queen Mary and Westfield College, led a task force on university disciplinary practices. The resulting report bluntly advised against investigating sexual assault: "Internal action for rape and sexual assault is out of the question," read the so-called Zellick guidelines, unless there's a guilty criminal verdict.

But a recent legal brief has challenged the stasis. Independently commissioned by the advocacy group End Violence Against Women Coalition and released in January of 2015 by human-rights lawyer Louise Whitfield, the brief argues that schools follow the Zellick guidelines "are failing to protect women students and are very likely to be in breach of the law."

"That legal opinion really did focus minds," said Rachel Krys, co-director of EVAWC. "Women's human rights — and we have rights to equality and not be discriminated against — all of those were being ignored."

Recent media investigations found one in three university women faced sexual harassment or assault and that schools had uneven or absent policies for tracking assaults.

In September 2015, amid mounting pressure, the U.K. business secretary ordered schools to investigate so-called "lad culture" on campuses. Universities U.K., the body representing executive heads, in March announced "an overwhelming need" to revise the Zellick rules. And this fall, it's expected to release its report and possibly a new set of stricter guidelines for schools.

"I don't think universities want to get this wrong," Krys said. "I think they want to just know what they have to do."

* * *

U.S. Vice-President Joe Biden has become a strident spokesperson for the "It's On Us" campaign

Though the U.K., U.S. and Canada have different legal systems, different legislation and different accountability mechanisms surrounding sexual assault on campus, the countries share one overarching similarity: institutional failure.

Survivors of sexual assault from schools in all three countries echo each other: The school dragged its heels, the school gave an excuse not to investigate and the school didn't tell the survivor the outcome of an investigation.

This means that legislation in and of itself isn't enough. Even in the face of laws, schools can and will fail to comply. And it shows the effects of systems with plenty of carrots and no meaningful sticks. No American school has ever lost federal funding over sexual-assault cases.

"Relying on human decency in this area is not the way to go," Dauber said.

Schools should not wait for the conclusion of a criminal investigation to begin their own Title IX investigation and, if needed, must take immediate steps to protect the student.

U.S. President Barack Obama

We believe it is not for the victim complainant to determine that the matter should be handled internally rather than externally. (from the Zellick report, 1994)

Graham Zellick, then president of Queen Mary and Westfield College in the U.K.

Join The Fight

Tell your story and pressure your MP using **#safercampusnow** and follow the series at **metronews.ca**.

About the series

Mon. | The power of five
The most organized Canada-wide effort to combat campus sexual assault comes from an unlikely crew of five young women.

Tues. | A federal vacuum
The problem is national, but solutions have been regional and parochial.

Wed. | The U.S. & U.K.
U.S. law and White House directives make for more rigorous requirements. But the U.K. lags behind.

Thurs. | Dearth of data
We don't know how big the problem is because no one is incentivized to find out.

Fri. | The way ahead
We have a problem; we need a plan.

Pushback on carbon tax

POLITICS

Critics asking how it will affect people, businesses

The Liberal government's decision to impose a national floor price on carbon emissions dominated the House of Commons on Tuesday, with critics saying the plan punishes consumers while doing little to combat climate change.

All but lost in the immediate, breathless reaction was the reality that the plan announced a day earlier by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau won't have much impact, if any, on 87 per cent of Canadians — or their carbon footprint — for the next four years.

That's because the rising floor price on CO_2 emissions laid out in the federal Liberal plan starts at $10 per tonne and takes until 2021 to catch up with and surpass existing carbon taxes already imposed by British Columbia and Alberta.

A group of 22 high-profile business and civil leaders endorsed the plan Tuesday, saying Canada is simply pricing emissions "as most of the world's biggest economies are doing."

The plan's cautious approach, however, is being overshadowed by Trudeau's audacious communications gambit.

Trudeau announced the national floor price Monday in the Commons just as federal, provincial and territorial ministers were meeting in Montreal to negotiate a pan-Canadian carbon plan.

Three provincial ministers left the Montreal meeting early to protest the high-handed federal move, and opposition parties remained in high dudgeon Tuesday.

Faced with such discordant assessments, the debate naturally landed on the bottom line: What's it going to cost me?

The Canadian Taxpayers Federation and Brad Wall's Saskatchewan Party each offered up estimates for the annual cost to an average family, starting at $1,250 a year and topping out at more than $2,500. THE CANADIAN PRESS

The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge at a children's party with Prince George and Princess Charlotte in Victoria, B.C. THE CANADIAN PRESS

'Creepy' video of Royals' visit confuses viewers

A "creepy" video of the recent royal tour in Canada has left some viewers gobsmacked.

Kensington Palace tweeted out the short video on Saturday of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge with Prince George and Princess Charlotte at an outdoor children's party in Victoria.

The family moves around in slow motion, playing with bubbles and balloons, to the sound of lagging, thumping music.

Many people posted comments describing the video as "creepy" and "morose," while others compared it to a trailer for a horror movie.

The video shows three-year-old George squirting bubbles out of a fish-like gun while his sister Charlotte, 16 months old, tries to hug a rabbit. There are also shots of a puppeteer and a man making balloon animals.

Not so scary — until you see it in slow motion and slightly darkened.

"I feel like I just watched the trailer for the sequel to #TheShining," responded one person.

"Reminds me of the Terminator movie when Linda Hamilton is pushing her baby in the swing before all hell breaks loose," said another.

The jokes continued: "After watching this, I'm anxiously awaiting the terrifying sequel: George and Charlotte Return! #budgetissues?"

THE CANADIAN PRESS

The higher prices for women at a Toronto coffee shop are a commentary on the so-called "pink tax." CONTRIBUTED

INEQUALITY

Coffee shop ups prices, but just for women

Rebecca Chiu
Metro | Toronto

Would you like your coffee with a side of inequality?

That's what was on the menu of Toronto's Tokyo Smoke Found for one special day.

"Don't know if you've noticed our menu today, but we actually charge based on gender," the barista tells a customer in a video posted to YouTube, in front of a menu marked with prices for women in pink. Large drip coffee? That'll be $3.50 if you're a man, but an even $5 if you're a woman. The reaction is not positive, but that's the point.

The video aims to raise awareness about the "Pink Tax," which is blamed for women paying more than men for the same services and products.

How many times have you been baffled by how inexpensive men's haircuts are, or shocked by how much a dress costs to dry clean?

Needless to say, the shop's customers, both men and women, are not happy with the price difference. Some have strong words — "That's f-king weird" — while others walk away empty handed.

HOUSING MARKET

Vancouver home sales plunged 33% last month, board says

Home prices in Metro Vancouver's once-surging real estate market are on the cusp of falling, housing experts say, as new figures show another month of plunging home sales in the region.

The Real Estate Board of Greater Vancouver published a report on Tuesday revealing a 32.6 per cent drop in September home sales compared with the same month last year. That follows a 26 per cent year-over-year decline in August and a dip of about 19 per cent the previous month.

"This looks like the top of the hump," said Tom Davidoff, an economist at the University of British Columbia's Sauder School of Business.

"Typically, before prices fall, transaction volumes fall. It looks like that's the direction in which we're heading."

Government officials have been scrambling in recent months to cool Vancouver's sizzling real estate market, as surging prices continue to push home ownership further out of reach for the average resident.

Experts are divided on the reasons for the latest decline in sales.

Davidoff attributed the drop in large part to the provincial government's 15 per cent tax on foreign buyers that came into effect in August.

Signalling that foreign demand will be significantly stifled dampens the incentive locals have to rush into the housing market, he said.

"Why would you (buy)?" Davidoff asked. "The only reason you'd do it is because you expect prices to grow."

Davidoff predicts housing prices will sink at least 10 per cent over the coming year.

September was the second month the 15 per cent tax applied to non-residents purchasing property in the city.

The real estate board said there were 2,253 homes sold last month, a steep dip from the 3,345 home sales recorded in September 2015. The drop was felt most acutely among detached homes, where sales declined 47.6 per cent when compared to the same period last year.

Attached-home sales decreased 32.2 per cent while condo sales slipped 20.3 per cent.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Children are pictured in La Puya, Santo Domingo on Tuesday after Hurricane Matthew passed through Hispaniola — the island that the Dominican Republic shares with Haiti. AFP/GETTY IMAGES

'Everything is gone': Hurricane still rages

WEATHER

Matthew threatens U.S. as people rush to stock up

Hurricane Matthew slammed into Haiti's southwestern tip with howling, 145 mph winds Tuesday, tearing off roofs in the poor and largely rural area, uprooting trees and leaving rivers bloated and choked with debris. At least nine deaths were blamed on the storm during its week-long march across the Caribbean.

Forecasters said Matthew could hit Florida toward the end of the week and push its way up the East Coast over the weekend. The forecast triggered a rush by Americans to stock up on food, gasoline and other emergency supplies.

The dangerous Category 4 storm blew ashore around dawn in the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, hitting a corner of Haiti where many people live in shacks of wood or concrete blocks. It unloaded heavy rain as it swirled on toward a lightly populated part of Cuba and the Bahamas.

Damage in the hardest-hit part of Haiti appeared to be widespread, but because of poor communications, blocked roads and washed-out bridges, the full extent was not immediately clear.

At least three deaths were blamed on the storm in Haiti, including one person whose home was crushed by a tree in Port Salut and a 26-year-old man who drowned trying to rescue a child who had fallen into a rushing river, authorities said. The child was saved.

Four deaths were recorded in the neighbouring Dominican Republic and one each in Colombia and in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Milriste Nelson, a 65-year-old farmer in the town of Leogane, said his neighbours fled when the wind ripped the corrugated metal roof from their home. His own small yard was strewn with the fruit he depends on for his livelihood.

"All the banana trees, all the mangos, everything is gone," Nelson said as he boiled breadfruit over a charcoal fire in the grey morning light.

In the U.S., Florida Gov. Rick Scott urged coastal residents to prepare for the possibility of a direct hit and line up three days' worth of supplies.

Americans raced to supermarkets, gas stations and hardware stores, buying up supplies. South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley said she would issue an evacuation order Wednesday so that 1 million people would have time to leave the coast. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Aussies partying in skimpy briefs arrested

Nine Australians, including a government adviser, have been arrested in Malaysia for stripping down to their briefs and drinking beer from shoes after Australian driver Daniel Ricciardo won the Malaysian Formula One Grand Prix. Government officials said that adviser Jack Walker, was among the men aged 25 to 29 who were arrested after they stripped down to skivvies decorated with the Malaysian flag.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SYRIA

Government presses in on Aleppo offensive

Forces backing Syrian President Bashar Assad pressed their offensive Tuesday on Aleppo's rebel-held zone from the south, after capturing areas on other fronts in recent days. As reinforcements arrived, including Shiite fighters from Iraq, the strategy appeared to be to retake rebel-held areas bit by bit, backed by massive Russian airpower, rather than risk a potentially costly all-out ground battle.

Tuesday's offensive on the city's besieged rebel-held eastern neighbourhoods came a day after Washington suspended direct U.S.-Russian talks on a Syria ceasefire.

The latest tactic of whittling away at rebel-held areas of Aleppo rather than launching an all-out offensive has proved successful in the past: The government reasserted control of the suburbs of the capital, Damascus, and most of the central city of Homs using the strategy.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

metro VIEWS
Your essential daily news
Wednesday, October 5, 2016

PAUL WELLS ON CHANGES IN THE SENATE

Trudeau's 2014 changes are likely to be permanent. The Senate's party lines need bear no relation to the Commons'. The very thought of it is making some old-time senators frisky.

It is only fair to let you know there are rumblings from the Senate. "I think that what you're seeing here is a transformation," Sen. Thomas Johnson McInnis told a roomful of reporters on Tuesday. "What you have here are independent thinkers."

Sen. McInnis is a former minister of this and that in the interminable Nova Scotia Progressive Conservative government of John Buchanan, who retired in 1990, and in the less durable administration of Buchanan's successor, Roland Thornhill. He ran federally in Dartmouth in 2000, in what would turn out to be the last election the Progressive Conservatives ever contested, and the result for him was not better than the result for most candidates from his party that year.

Stephen Harper put McInnis in the Senate in September of 2012. Two months later, the Ottawa Citizen started asking questions about Mike Duffy's housing expenses, and life just hasn't been very fun up there in the Red Chamber ever since.

But perhaps that is changing. Duffy was acquitted on all charges. Charges against Patrick Brazeau were dropped, and none will be pressed against Pamela Wallin. But most important, the very composition of the Senate is — maybe! arguably! — changing under Justin Trudeau.

In January 2014, without a day's warning, Trudeau kicked every Liberal senator out of the party's national caucus in Ottawa. The move was widely dismissed as rookie theatrics from a man who didn't understand Parliament. In March of this year, freshly in office as prime minister, Trudeau appointed seven new senators and told them they could vote and speak as they pleased. He will soon name 20 more. Suddenly for the first time, these nominal independents will outnumber Conservatives and the remaining Liberals-without-a-caucus.

What do Trudeau's Senate changes mean? You'll be relieved to know a special Senate committee has been on the case.

What does it all mean? You'll be relieved to know a special Senate committee has been on the case. It's had "passionate discussion, if not outright argument and debate," McInnis said. Oh, you scamps. Its conclusions?

Well, on the big questions, you'll just have to wait. Senators are not in the habit of rushing. They released only the first of two reports on Tuesday, and it's the second that will answer the crucial question facing a post-Trudeau Senate: if nobody in the place is beholden to a Liberal government, what's the nature of its obligation to pass legislation passed by the elected House of Commons?

Tuesday's interim recommendations addressed less fundamental questions in ways that still managed to be entertaining. The Senate's proceedings should at last be televised and webcast, they said. If the Commons sends up an omnibus bill to change a few dozen disparate laws at once, senators should be able to chop it into bits and consider them separately. And, finally, any decent-sized group of senators (nine or more) who want to sit in any durable combination should be recognized as a "caucus," with budget and staffing to match.

These changes are likely to make Trudeau's 2014 changes permanent. There might be groups with internal cohesion in the Senate, but they need bear no particular relation to the makeup of the Commons. The very thought of it is making some old-time senators frisky. Serge Joyal, who was a Liberal for decades but is now, well, a Liberal — terminology is tricky up there — said that, from the moment he was no longer welcome in Trudeau's caucus room, "Ben, il y a, comme on dit en anglais, 'No strings attached.' "

Elaine McCoy, appointed as a Progressive Conservative by Paul Martin after the federal Progressive party had voted to abolish itself, pronounced herself chuffed to have so many colleagues, on deck and coming soon, who feel no particular party affiliation.

How will laws get passed? There used to be room for quiet tradeoffs in government caucus meetings, Joyal said. Now there'll have to be open bargaining between Liberals and… these people. "It's about power," Joyal said. "As my mother would say to me, don't try to show to an old monkey how to make faces." I felt a sudden pang of regret that I never met Serge Joyal's mother.

Justin Trudeau's Senate upheaval foreshadowed, as we are now seeing, his management style in general. He may take a long time to decide, but when he does, you sure notice the decision. If there are noses out of joint, let them be out of joint. It's how he replaced one Clerk of the Privy Council with another. It's how he made climate policy this week. The announcement takes only a minute. The consequences take years to play out.

FACES YOU CAN TRUST From right: Senators Thomas Johnson McInnis, Serge Joyal Elaine McCoy — members of the Senate committee on modernization — hold a press conference in Ottawa on Tuesday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Paul Wells is a national politics columnist for the Toronto Star.

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

You say 'politically correct elitism' like it's a bad thing

When Conservative leadership candidate Kellie Leitch launched another fundraising push last month, she called for bravery among her fellow conservatives.

"Together we will stand up to those who don't want to discuss Canadian values and whose politically correct elitism remains tone deaf to the views of most Canadians," she wrote in an email, referencing her plan to screen immigrants for "anti-Canadian values."

It's proved an ineloquent but revealing sentence.

To begin with, "Canadian values" don't mean indigenous values, obviously. They mean white, colonial values. And, as it turns out, most Canadians really do seem worried about the integration of immigrants. A full 68 per cent of Canadians want immigrants to "do more" to fit in, compared to only 53 per cent of Americans, according to an Angus Reid Institute/CBC survey released this week.

Sixty-eight per cent, up by more than 11 points since 1993. Angus Reid executive director Shachi Kurl said the increased desire for more assimilation "is something that bears watching, particularly because that view has hardened over the last 25 years."

A question we never ask of polling data, though, is whether those majority views are really worth defending. Or, to use Leitch's words: Is "politically correct elitism" really that bad? Could it be just a basic call to lean towards, oh, I don't know, human decency over fear-mongering, racism and xenophobia? Calling out "politically correct elitism" was Step 1 in the Donald J Trump Manual for How to Get Away with Hate Speech — is it a great card to play here?

As for whether evil left-wing sorcerers are controlling us all like ventriloquists, let's examine the reality, shall we? The reality is we are in the middle of a new era of race and identity conversations in Canada. In just the last month:

A police officer and a black man in Greater Toronto "swapped lives" for a day for a CBC news report.

Vancouver CKNW radio host Ian Power turned a segment on immigration into personal complaints about being white in a mostly non-white neighbourhood.

A Globe and Mail investigation discovered Maryam Monsef was born in Iran, not Afghanistan, and criticisms of birtherism arose north of the border. The Globe and Mail also launched a podcast on race, called Colour Code.

That's not to mention Black Lives Matter or the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Inquiry or many, many other examples.

Undoubtedly, as Leitch puts out the call for money, she's playing to fears of what Canada will look like in 50 years, when immigration trends will almost certainly push white Canadians out of the majority.

A crucial question to ask but, crucially, not one to fear.

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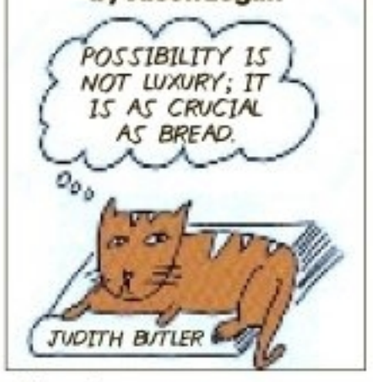

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All downhill from here: Research shows beginning of October is when our weight is lowest

BOOK EXCERPT **PURELY PUMPKIN BY ALLISON DAY**

Pumpkin served up steamy

RECIPE

This autumnal soup is a silky, smooth dose of fall warmth

During the cold weather, my motto is that any vegetable that can be puréed, will be puréed. And no vegetable does such a good job of blending into silky, soupy submission quite like the pumpkin.

Its subtle sweetness shines through with each bite, balancing savory onion, forest-like sage, and a smoky pumpkin seed garnish.

Often, when I eat vegetable soups, I never feel entirely satisfied; soup is always the partner of something heartier, but this deeply rich one carries me through even the most active, blustery fall and winter afternoons.

Simple Roasted Pumpkin Soup with Smoky Roasted Pumpkin Seeds

Serves 4-6

Ingredients:

- 1 (2–3 pound) sugar pumpkin or other small roasting pumpkin, peeled, seeds reserved, and cut into rough pieces
- 1 onion, peeled and cut into rough pieces
- 3 cloves garlic, peeled, left whole
- 8 whole fresh sage leaves
- 2 Tbsp extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 tsp salt
- ground black pepper, to taste
- 3 cups low-sodium vegetable stock
- 2 Tbsp 35% heavy whipping cream or full-fat coconut milk, plus more for serving
- Smoky Roasted Pumpkin Seeds (recipe follows) for serving

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 375°F.
2. On a large-rimmed baking sheet, toss pumpkin, onion, garlic, and sage with oil, salt, and pepper. Roast for 45 minutes.
3. Transfer vegetables to a blender or large pot for blending with an immersion blender, along with stock and cream (if your blender jug is small, you may need to do this in batches); blend until smooth.
4. Transfer to a large pot to heat over medium, stirring often, until very hot. Serve with a swirl of cream and sprinkle of pumpkin seeds.

Notes: If you prefer a thinner soup, add vegetable stock 1/2 cup at a time until desired consistency.

Soup can be frozen for up to 3 months.

Roasted Pumpkin Seeds

Makes 1/2 cup

A crunchy, high protein snack, roasted pumpkin seeds do the heavy lifting anywhere you need a touch of crunch.

Sprinkle on soups, salads, trail mix, yogurt, ice cream, pie, or simply enjoy by the handful, it's hard to go wrong with this seasonal treat.

Ingredients:

- ½ cup fresh pumpkin seeds, cleaned and dried well, or raw, unsalted green pumpkin seeds
- 1 tsp smoked paprika (mild or hot)
- 1/2 tsp extra-virgin olive oil
- 1/8 tsp salt

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 375°F. Line a large-rimmed baking sheet with parchment paper.
2. Add all ingredients to baking sheet, tossing well to combine. Spread into a single layer.
3. Roast for 25 to 30 minutes if using sugar pumpkin seeds or 10 to 15 minutes if using green pumpkin seeds, until brown and beginning to pop.
4. Cool completely. Store airtight at room temperature for up to 1 week.

SYNOPSIS

With this new book, popular blogger Allison Day brings pumpkin into our homes with a seasonal, whole foods recipe set.

EXCERPTED FROM PURELY PUMPKIN: MORE THAN 100 SEASONAL RECIPES TO SHARE, SAVOR, AND WARM YOUR KITCHEN BY ALLISON DAY. COPYRIGHT 2016. PHOTOGRAPHY BY ALLISON DAY. USED WITH PERMISSION OF SKYHORSE PUBLISHING.

These rich soups are hearty enough to carry you through the most active blustery fall afternoons. ALLISON DAY/PURELY PUMPKIN: MORE THAN 100 SEASONAL RECIPES TO SHARE

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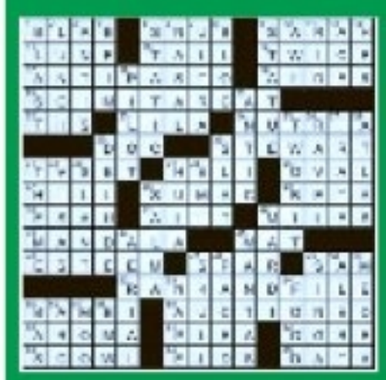

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All dressed for Thanksgiving

Tired of the same old stuffing every year? Why not try these new dishes inspired by flavours from around the world.
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

STUFFING

Two exotic twists on a dish that's a turkey dinner staple

Stuffing often gets a bad rap for being too dry, too fatty, too soggy, or too bland. If that's been the case at your Thanksgiving feasts, consider switching out certain ingredients to better suit your expanding tastes.

Here are two distinct flavours to tempt your taste buds: spinach and paneer from Southern Asia and rice with chestnuts and shiitake from Eastern Asia.

Hemant Bhagwani's Spinach-Paneer stuffing
Key ingredients: Spinach, paneer, garam masala

Bored of the traditional turkey dinner, Hemant Bhagwani's friends turned to Toronto's Indian Street Food Co. and Amaya Express owner to punch up the flavours of their usual Thanksgiving feast.

Ingredients (for the rice):
- 1 1/2 cups (375 mL) basmati rice
- 3 cups (750 mL) water
- 1 pinch saffron threads or 1/4 tsp (1 mL) ground turmeric

Directions:
1. In a medium-sized pot over medium heat, bring rice, water and saffron to a boil. Cover and reduce heat to medium-low on a gentle simmer. Continue to simmer until rice is tender. Remove lid and fluff with fork.

Ingredients (for the spinach paneer stuffing):
- 2 tbsp (30 mL) canola or vegetable oil
- 1/4 tsp (1 mL) cumin seeds
- 1 minced green Thai chili
- 4 minced garlic cloves
- 1 finely chopped large Spanish onion
- 1 tbsp (15 mL) finely chopped fresh ginger
- 8 cups (2 L) fresh spinach leaves
- 3/4 tsp (3 mL) salt
- 1/2 tsp (2 mL) garam masala
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) finely chopped dried apricots
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) grated paneer

Directions:
1. In a large skillet over medium-high heat, heat oil. Add cumin and chili and sauté till fragrant, about 3 minutes. Add garlic, onion and ginger. Continue to cook for 5 minutes, or until onions become translucent.
2. Add spinach, salt, garam masala, and apricots. Continue cook until spinach wilts.
3. Mix spinach mixture with rice. Toss in grated paneer.
4. Serve immediately, stuff in turkey before roasting, or keep warm in oven at 200F (100 C) until ready to serve.

Jonathan Poon's Chinese Sausage and Sticky Rice
Key ingredients: Dried shiitake, chestnuts, Chinese sausage

Chef Jonathan Poon of Toronto's Bar Fancy didn't celebrate Thanksgiving as a kid, but he did make stuffing for his family at Christmas, and he'd take cues from a dim sum staple: sticky rice with braised soy sauce chicken and Chinese sausage. This is a take on Poon's sticky rice stuffing.

Ingredients (for the rice):
- 2 cups (500 mL) white glutinous rice, rinsed
- 2 1/2 cups (625 mL) cold water
- In a large pot, soak rice in water for 30 minutes.

Directions:
1. Bring to a boil over medium-high heat. Cover and reduce heat to medium-low and let simmer until liquid has been absorbed. Fluff with fork.

Ingredients (for the chicken):
- 3/4 cup (180 mL) dried shiitake
- 1 1/2 cups (375 mL) boiling water
- 1 tbsp (15 mL) minced fresh ginger
- 1 minced garlic clove
- 2 tbsp (30 mL) light Chinese soy sauce
- 1 tbsp (15 mL) dark Chinese soy sauce
- 1 cup (250 mL) water
- 1 tbsp (15 mL) brown sugar
- 1/2 tsp (2 mL) salt
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) roasted, peeled chestnuts, plus another • 1/4 cup (60 mL) for garnish
- 1 1/2 lbs (680g) chicken legs, skin on, bone in
- 1/4 cup (60 mL) finely diced Chinese sausage

Directions:
1. Submerge shiitake in a bowl of boiling water. Cover with plastic wrap and let sit for 20 minutes. Strain and reserve liquid. Discard stems. Slice mushrooms. Set aside.
2. In a medium-sized pan over medium heat, stir together reserved mushroom liquid, sliced mushrooms, ginger, garlic, light soy sauce, dark soy sauce, water, brown sugar, salt and 1/2 cup chestnuts. Add chicken legs in a single layer in pan. Cover, bring to a boil.
3. Turn heat down to medium and simmer until chicken is fully cooked, about 30 mins.
4. Remove chicken from pan. Remove skin and shred meat. Discard bones and skin. Add shredded meat back to liquid mixture. Continue cooking until most liquid evaporates.
5. Add mixture to cooked sticky rice. Mix.
6. Wipe pan. Sauté Chinese sausage until fragrant and translucent, three minutes. Add sausage and drippings to rice. Mix until well combined.
7. Serve immediately, stuff in turkey before roasting or keep warm in oven at 200 F (100 C) until ready to serve.

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Building a better minivan

REVIEW

New Pacifica far superior to its predecessor

Jonathan Yarkony
AutoGuide.com

You might think that minivans are going extinct with the rate at which everyone is jumping on the SUV bandwagon, but minivan sales were booming in the first half of 2016, and the all-new Chrysler Pacifica just hit dealer lots in May. It should be a big second half and possibly the best year since 2008 for minivans.

Some of you may recall the Pacifica name from an early (failed) crossover experiment in Chrysler's past, but this is something entirely different: This is the replacement for the Town & Country minivan, while Dodge's Grand Caravan continues on largely unchanged.

The platform is entirely new, using aluminum, magnesium and high-strength steel in key locations to make a lighter, stiffer frame, and the 3.6L Pentastar V6 is paired with Chrysler's new nine-speed automatic transmission, all of which should contribute to much-improved fuel economy. There is also a boatload of new tech on board, from a back-up camera and touchscreen display on base models to hands-free tailgate and driving assistance systems like lane departure warning and adaptive cruise control.

However, it's what hasn't changed that makes minivans great for families, and some standout features from Chrysler that make it a great minivan.

The trunk behind the third row alone has a whopping 915 litres with a deep well that means you can easily pack in running strollers, a couple bikes and other bulky items.

Of course, Chrysler minivans' claim to fame is Stow 'n' Go seats that collapse into the floor, which is standard for both rows in the Pacifica. Dropping the third row is as easy as yanking a strap and letting gravity do all the hard work. Getting them back up requires a bit more muscle, but is still plenty easy.

Quality, long a sore spot for FCA minivans is much improved, with convincing leather seats, carpeted cargo area, and soft-touch dash.

Out on the road, the Pacifica's mission is built right into its name, with a smooth ride and silky powertrain that provides a peaceful and quiet cabin in any situation. Its mission is comfort first, second and third, with a suspension that soaks up any road imperfections short of a bomb crater, and a transmission that shifts imperceptibly.

Despite a price tag for top trims that many just won't be able to accept, the Pacifica is a massive leap forward for Chrysler and minivans. It's stylish enough to draw attention from unexpected sources and has enough technology to satisfy today's demanding consumers.

THE CHECKLIST | 2017 CHRYSLER PACIFICA

THE BASICS

Engine: 3.6-litre V6
Power: 287 Horsepower, 36 kg-m torque
Transmission: Nine-speed automatic
Fuel Economy (L/100 km): 12.9 city, 8.4 highway, 10.9 combined
Price: Starts at $41,930

LOVE IT

- Tons of cargo space
- Passenger space and access
- Good power, easy to drive
- Well integrated technology

LEAVE IT

- Steep price
- Rotary shifter

ENVIRONMENT

Electrics touted, but await their moment

When will electric-powered cars become a practical choice for ordinary people? The question hangs in the air at the Paris auto show, where Volkswagen, Mercedes-Benz and General Motors are showing off electric cars they hope are the on-ramp to a profitable future.

The raft of new vehicles lends buzz to electric cars. But earlier over-optimistic predictions have also bred skepticism.

Volkswagen compared its I.D. electric compact to its historic Beetle and mainstay Golf models and said it was the leading edge of 30 new electric models it plans to put out by 2025.

Daimler AG CEO Dieter Zetsche looked more Silicon Valley than Stuttgart, wearing faded jeans and sneakers to tout the Mercedes-Benz EQ, a battery-powered crossover SUV concept. The vehicle aims to illustrate the company's longer term strategy that connects electric cars with other new technology, such as autonomous driving and vehicle sharing.

Zetsche said the company aimed for 10 electric vehicles by 2025, making up 15 to 25 per cent of global sales — a bold prediction he immediately tempered by saying that was based on "continued development of infrastructure and customer preferences."

He said "we need to prepare ourselves with all our resources for electric mobility as a mass phenomenon" yet remain flexible if demand is lower — or even higher — than predicted.

General Motors Co.'s European division Opel is showing off the Ampera-e, a rebadged version of the Chevrolet Bolt.

However, for now, the limited range and higher costs mean battery-powered vehicles have little attraction for regular folks trying to get the most for their money. They remain largely a niche market, often for people enthusiastic about new technology or the environment, and with the extra disposable income to act on that.

The Palo Alto, Calif.-based Tesla has won attention with rising sales of electrics to well-heeled customers — but loses money. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

France's Minister for Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy Segolene Royal (C) examines a Twizy 45 Renault electric car during the Paris Motor Show. AFP/GETTY IMAGES

2018 Audi TT RS

After a hiatus of several years, Audi will launch the second-generation TT RS next summer, likely as a 2018 model, for somewhere around the $75,000 mark. At that price, it has its sights set squarely on such notable sports cars as the Porsche 718 Cayman and BMW M2. To even be considered in that company, Audi pulled out all the stops to create something competitive but distinct. **JONATHAN YARKONY** AUTOGUIDE.COM

1 Engine
Although this 2.5-litre five-cylinder has the same displacement and core design as the one in the previous TT RS, it is completely new, starting from an aluminum block that replaces the iron block, and using magnesium, molybdenum and other light-weight metals and construction to save a total of 26 kilograms in the engine.

2 Power
All these tricks combine to deliv-er 400 horsepower at 5,850 rpm, and an unnaturally flat torque line of 49 kilogram-metres.

3 Steering
The adaptive steering gets quicker as you progress into your turn, and the car tracks well into corners.

4 Seats
The seats were also a perfect fit, and some models featured adjust-able torso bolsters so that once you settle in, you can lock yourself into place for spirited driving.

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University hockey back in play

MEN'S HOCKEY

Two local rivals among 36 teams vying for the CIS cup

Jen Traplin

For nearly as long as Canada has been a country, Canadians have been playing hockey.

The first indoor game was organized by the man credited with creating ice hockey as we know it — James Creighton — and played in 1875 in Montreal. The game included two, nine-player teams made up of McGill University students, who helped lead the way in popularizing the sport.

Two years later, the McGill University Hockey Club was formed, believed to be the first of its kind in the world. Soon after, other Canadian hockey clubs started popping up and, in 1885, just 10 years after that first game, the first organized interuniversity hockey game was played in Kingston — a battle between Queen's University and the Royal Military College of Canada.

Today, university level hockey is alive and well under the blanket of the sport's governing body, Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS).

CIS men's ice hockey is made up of 36 Canadian universities, including Carleton University and the University of Ottawa, that play for a chance to compete for the coveted CIS University Cup at the end of the season.

+ CHAMPIONSHIP

CIS University Cup facts

- 27 different teams have played in the national championship final
- 17 different teams have won the CIS University Cup
- The Alberta Golden Bears have won the most national championships (15)
- The Toronto Varsity Blues hold the record for consecutive championships (five)

+ WOMEN, TOO

More facts and figures

Of course, it's not just men competing at the university level — women's hockey has also been played in the CIS for nearly 20 years. Much like the men, Canadian women have been playing university hockey since the late 1800s.

Today, there are 30 CIS women's ice hockey teams — including the Carleton Ravens and Ottawa Gee-Gees.

Carleton's Michael McNamee will be on the roster when the Ravens play the Ottawa Gee-Gees on Oct. 19. CARLETON UNIVERSITY

LOCAL TEAMS

Rivalry renewed

With the University of Ottawa Gee-Gees men's hockey team back on the ice after a two-year hiatus, the clash between Ottawa and Carleton University has been reborn.

While the teams enjoyed a healthy rivalry from the 1950s through the mid-70s, Carleton's men's hockey program was eventually cancelled due to a lack of funding. It was brought back in 2007, following a 33-year hiatus. The Gee-Gees, meanwhile, haven't played Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) men's hockey since 2014, when the program was suspended in the wake of sexual assault allegations against two of the team's players.

As a result, the two teams have only been CIS competitors at the same time for seven years over the last four decades.

The last game between the men's hockey programs was on Jan. 4, 2014 when the Ravens beat their crosstown rivals 5-2 at home. Five Ravens players from that final regular season game remain on the current roster — Jason Seed, Corey Durocher, Derek Brown, Michael McNamee and Owen Werthner.

The Ravens lead the regular season series with 17 wins against seven losses. JEN TRAPLIN

+ SCHEDULE

Ravens vs. Gee-Gees

The Carleton Ravens and Ottawa Gee-Gees renew their rivalry on Oct. 19 at 7 p.m. at Carleton University.

The two teams will square off once more this regular season at the University of Ottawa on Feb. 17, 2017 at 7:30 p.m.

The Ottawa Gee Gees' Anthony Brodeur. UOTTAWA SPORTS SERVICES

CARLETON RAVENS

Outstanding Ravens back for 2016-17 season

When the puck drops on the regular season for the Carleton Ravens men's hockey team, they'll be faced with the tough task of trying to best their efforts in 2015-16, which was an outstanding year for the program.

Outstanding year

The Ravens recorded 20 wins against just seven losses last season (and one tie), reaching the CIS national quarterfinals for the second time in three years. That game went on to set the record for the longest Canadian University Cup contest in history , five hours and eight minutes. The Ravens eventually fell 3-2 to Saskatchewan in quadruple overtime.

As a result of their stellar play throughout the season, a number of Ravens players were also recognized for their efforts.

Recognition for Ravens

First-year forward Brett Welychka, who returns to the Ravens roster for the 2016-17 season, was named CIS Rookie of the Year. He finished just one point behind Guillaume Asselin of L'Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières (UQTR) for the national scoring title.

Ravens forward Michael McNamee was named the conference's most sportsmanlike player and headlined the Ontario University Athletics (OUA) East Second-Team All-Star roster while Ryan Van Stralen, a former forward with the Ottawa 67s, scored the second most goals in the country during regular season play.

Like Welychka, both Van Stralen and McNamee will return to the Carleton Ravens lineup this season.

JEN TRAPLIN

Brett Welychka of the Ravens. CARLETON UNIVERSITY

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OTTAWA GEE-GEES

Gee-Gees head coach 'excited to get going'

For the first time in more than two years, the University of Ottawa men's hockey team is back on the ice.

The program was suspended in 2014 following allegations of sexual assault by two players during a team trip to Thunder Bay. When the program was reinstated last summer, Patrick Grandmaitre was named the new head coach, tasked with building the team for CIS competition in the 2016-17 season.

Big goals

The Gatineau native admits he has big goals for his new team.

"We aspire to be a top-notch program and, to do that, we'll have to play, adjust to, and learn from the best teams in our league," Grandmaitre says.

The Gee-Gees wrapped up its exhibition schedule with a game against the Binghamton Senators of the American hockey league last Friday night.

Positive stepping stone

Though the Gee-Gees fell 3-2 to the visiting B-Sens, Ottawa's assistant coach Brent Sullivan called the game "a positive stepping stone," adding the team is looking forward to playing its first regular season CIS games in over two years.

"It's been an exciting month. We've taken a lot of steps forward and we're really excited to get going on Friday," admits Sullivan.

JEN TRAPLIN

Antoine Pouliot of the Gee-Gees. UOTTAWA SPORTS SERVICES

metro SPORTS

Silencing the home fans: Before Tuesday's game, the road team was 6-2 in wild-card play-in games

IN BRIEF

Cubs tab Lester to start Game 1 of their NLDS

Jon Lester will start the Chicago Cubs' playoff opener.

Manager Joe Maddon announced Tuesday he was going with Lester over Kyle Hendricks and 2015 NL Cy Young Award winner Jake Arrieta in Game 1 of the NLDS against the New York Mets or San Francisco Giants. The series opens at Wrigley Field on Friday, with the Cubs' sights set on winning their first World Series since 1908 after leading the majors with 103 wins. Lester (19-5) was second in the majors to Hendricks with a 2.44 ERA.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tebow moves on to Arizona Fall League

Tim Tebow will test his baseball skills against some of the game's premier prospects.

The New York Mets announced they are sending Tebow to the Arizona Fall League after cutting short their instructional league Tuesday with Hurricane Matthew approaching Florida. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Simmons undergoes foot surgery, 76ers say

The Philadelphia 76ers announced Tuesday No. 1 overall pick Ben Simmons has had surgery to repair a broken bone in his right foot.

There is no timetable yet for his return.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Go to metronews.ca for coverage of Tuesday night's AL wild-card game between the Blue Jays and the Orioles.

Trey Turner
GETTY IMAGES

Nats rookie on fast track

MLB PLAYOFFS

Trea Turner brings blast of speed into October

Trea Turner knows things will speed up during the post-season. He has the wheels to match.

Since bursting into the majors in June, the Washington Nationals rookie has hit .342 with 14 doubles, eight triples, 13 home runs and 33 stolen bases in 73 games. That's the highest batting average by a rookie with 300 at-bats since Ichiro Suzuki in 2001, and Turner has the ability to turn his level up as the situation dictates.

"This guy is phenomenal," Nationals closer Mark Melancon said. "And he's just so even-keel, it's not like he's on a hot streak or something. That's his game. He's got five tools and he uses them, he's level-headed, he's a smart player. He's way beyond his years, and it's impressive to watch him."

Baseball lifer Dusty Baker likes Turner's combination of speed and power. The 23-year-old can flash those tools at the plate and in centre field. Turner often doesn't stop at first, but his speed on the base paths is something that Baker said "changes the equation."

"When he's on the bases, he creates tension," said Los Angeles Dodgers manager Dave Roberts, who was with San Diego when the Padres had him in spring training. "He turns doubles into triples, singles into doubles."

33

Turner had 33 stolen bases on 39 attempts this season.

Roberts' Dodgers will be tasked with stopping Turner in the NL Division Series, which begins Friday at Nationals Park.

Already, major-league pitching has something of a book on Turner, and he knows it's on him to make the most of his key at-bats.

Pitchers "adjust and it's whether or not you have the approach or fundamentals, whatever you want to call it, to either continue to do what you're doing or to adjust back to them," Turner said. "Post-season will be no different. There's just more eyes watching."

There are always eyes watching Turner, who's so fast it sometimes seems like he's gliding above the ground. He has told reigning NL MVP Bryce Harper that he enjoys hitting triples so that teammates can drive him in, and that enthusiasm is a spark in the Nationals' clubhouse.

"Aw, man, it's a lot of fun," Harper said. "He brings that energy, brings that fire that you want. A kid that can really come up here and enjoy the game, have his fun and it really just shows his speed."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

OTHER ROOKIES IN THE POST-SEASON

SS Corey Seager, Dodgers
.308 AVG, .365 OBP, 105 R, 26 HR, 72 RBI (627 AB)

2B T.J. Rivera, Mets
.333 AVG, .345 OBP, 10 R, 3 HR, 16 RBI (105 AB)

OF Tyler Naquin, Indians
.296 AVG, .372 OBP, 52 R, 14 HR, 43 RBI (321 AB)

SP Kenta Maeda, Dodgers
16-11, 3.48 ERA, 1.14 WHIP, 179 K (175 IP)

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Ottawa metro

Bright Star Benn's other passion

NHL

Dallas ace had baseball scouts' attention prior to career on ice

Jamie Benn might be playing a different sport right now if the Dallas Stars hadn't picked their future captain late in the NHL draft nearly a decade ago.

Benn has rung up more points than Sidney Crosby, Patrick Kane and every other NHL player over the past two seasons and signed an eight-year extension worth US$76 million with the Dallas Stars this past summer.

But the remarkable, unexpected rise of one of the top Canadian hockey players almost never happened. Long before any of his NHL success, baseball was still tugging at his heart.

"I think if I never got drafted, baseball could've been an option," Benn said in an interview with the Canadian Press.

He was pretty good, too. One former coach called Benn the second-best left-handed hitter ever from Victoria, after Toronto Blue Jays all-star Michael Saunders.

Benn played centre-field, first base and pitched occasionally. He was a daring fielder and powerful hitter, the type who would typically bat third in the batting order. He was also a wily bunter who liked to beat defences with bunts to third base.

> **"I knew his dad fairly well and his dad would always say how Jamie liked baseball better.**
>
> Ron Arcuri, Benn's coach with the Victoria Capitals

Benn got his love for the sport from his father, Randy. Bruce Hamilton, the owner, president and GM of the Kelowna Rockets, where Benn would later play junior hockey, thinks Randy would have been thrilled if his son pursued baseball over hockey.

"I think he would've loved it if I went that route," Benn concurred. Benn said the love for the two sports is equal, though he does admit that he could watch baseball all day.

"I knew his dad fairly well and his dad would always say how Jamie liked baseball better," said Ron Arcuri, Benn's coach with the Victoria Capitals. Before the NHL draft in 2007, Benn had a commitment to attend the University of Alaska-Fairbanks where he would play hockey in the winter and baseball in the Alaska Summer League, which has seen the likes of Barry Bonds and Josh Donaldson roll through.

But after the Stars drafted him with the 129th overall pick in 2007 Benn decided to give hockey a go, agreeing to play for Kelowna.

It's a decision that still stings Arcuri, who said Benn had baseball scouts taking notice.

Benn had the eye of scouts in hockey, too. But as they remember it, his dedication to the sport was casual. "Jamie was a really naive kid," said Tim Bernhardt, the Stars former director of amateur scouting who now works with the Arizona Coyotes.

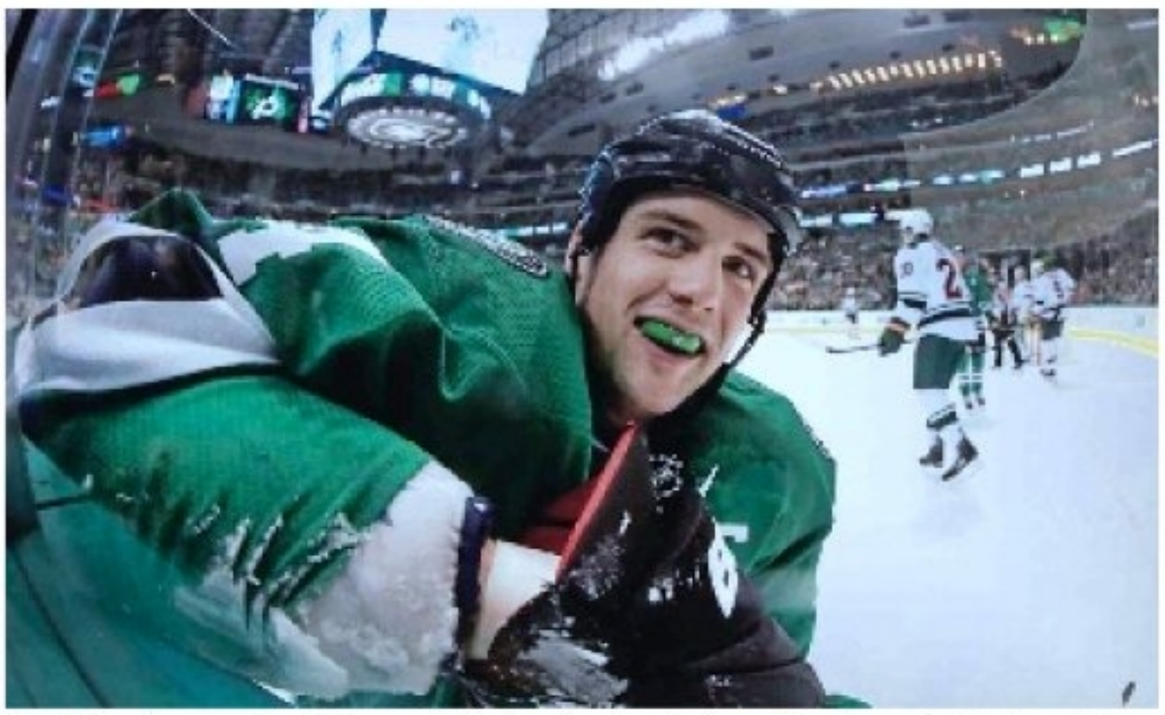
"He was out on (Vancouver Island) and he was just playing. He was a good baseball player and hockey, I'm sure it was part of his life, but it wasn't his whole life."

Because he wasn't lacing his skates up at every possible moment and hitting the diamond in the summer, Benn was rough around the edges as a hockey player early on. His skating and conditioning were concerns. He wasn't considered lazy, just unaware of what was actually required to make it in hockey.

Some think it's why Benn sunk to the fifth round.

The Stars were alerted to Benn by Dennis Holland, a B.C. area scout and brother of Detroit Red Wings GM Ken Holland. Long-time Stars executive Les Jackson said Holland described Benn as a big, raw kid who could handle the puck. Smart, too. More substance over style.

The Stars chose four players before Benn, and only one ever played an NHL game. THE CANADIAN PRESS



Jamie Benn has gone from being undecided on choosing hockey as his main professional goal to becoming one of the top handful of players in the NHL with the Dallas Stars. TOM PENNINGTON/GETTY IMAGES

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GOLF RYDER CUP HEROES PAY THEIR RESPECTS TO PALMER

Ricky Fowler, from left, Bubba Watson and Phil Mickelson embrace after putting the Ryder Cup on display during a Celebration of Arnold Palmer at Saint Vincent College on Tuesday in Latrobe, Pennsylvania.

Palmer, a golf legend who won 62 PGA tour titles over the course of his career, died on Sept. 25 at age 87. HUNTER MARTIN/GETTY IMAGES

RECIPE Roasted Butternut Squash and Pear Soup

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

Butternut squash soup gets added sweetness from a pear purée.

Ready in 1 hour 20 minutes
Prep time: 10 minutes
Cook time: 1 hour 10 minutes
Serves 4

Ingredients
- 2 lb. Butternut Squash, peeled, seeded and cut into 2 inch chunks
- 3 shallots, quartered
- 3 heirloom carrots, cut lengthwise and then in half
- 2 cloves garlic
- 2 Tbsp olive oil
- 1/2 tsp salt, divided
- 3 cups vegetable broth
- 1 cup milk
- 1/2 cup apple cider or water
- 3/4 cup pear purée
- Sour cream or Greek style yogurt for garnish

Directions
1. Preheat oven to 400. Place squash, shallots, carrots and garlic in a large bowl and toss with olive oil and 1/4 teaspoon salt. Spread vegetables on a large, rimmed baking sheet and roast 50 to 55 minutes, or until vegetables are fork tender. Let cool for 5 minutes.
2. Place vegetables and 2 cups of the vegetable broth into a blender or food processor and puree until smooth.
3. Pour the purée into a large saucepan over medium-low heat and stir in the last cup of broth, milk, water or apple cider, pear purée and the remaining salt.
4. Allow the soup to cook until hot for about 10 minutes, stirring occasionally.
5. Serve with a dollop of Greek style yogurt or sour cream mixed into soup.

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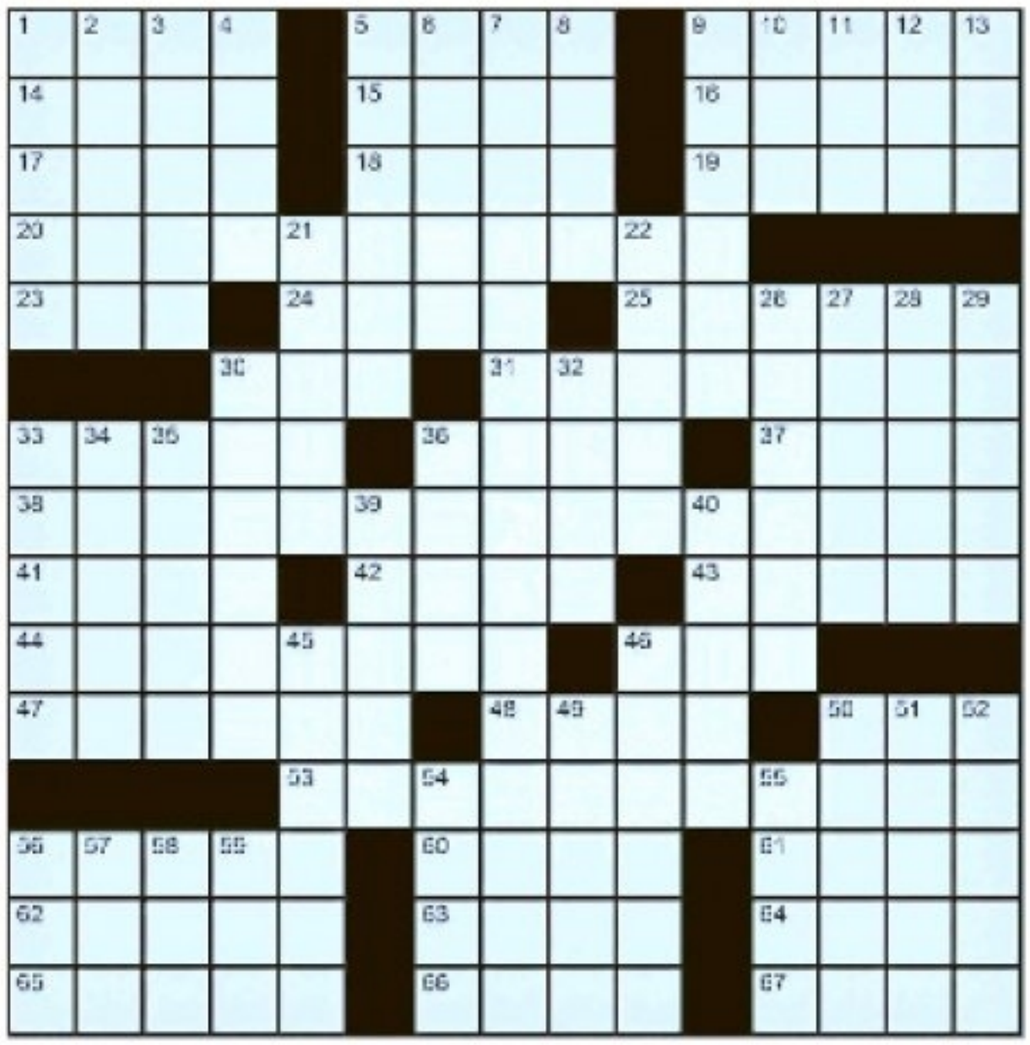
CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Pillow cover
5. Medic who's missing the 'OR'?
9. Loans
14. Parrot's waxy beak part
15. Beige
16. Anticipate
17. Portion
18. Belonging to Jay Z's wife, fun-style
19. Kaley's "The Big Bang Theory" character
20. The Prairies = Canada's __
23. Be under the weather
24. "It __ Me Babe" by The Turtles
25. __ yogurt
30. Charlemagne's li'l domain
31. Resort city of Mexico
33. Start
36. Smudge
37. Industrial region of Germany
38. Firearm used by French-explorer-to-Canada Samuel de Champlain: 2 wds.
41. Ancient city of Japan
42. Tortoise's competitor
43. Olde-style rewards
44. Set off
46. "The Dark Knight" (2008) star ...his initials-sharers
47. Tree types
48. Fight
50. Whiz's pal
53. Incredibly interesting
56. "Any Time __ __" by The Beatles
60. Prince Michael of __ (Queen Elizabeth's cousin)
61. Food thickener
62. CCR's "Born on the __"
63. "__ the Woods" (2014) starring Meryl Streep
64. Purplish
65. Folie __ __ (Foolishness shared by two)
66. Eminem song
67. Cobblestone

DOWN
1. __ diving
2. French artist, __ Toulouse-Lautrec
3. Princess in "The Little Mermaid" (1989)
4. Prefix to 'morphosis'
5. Carrie Fisher's mother Ms. Reynolds
6. __ liner
7. __ __ Beach Provincial Park, in Sambro Creek, Nova Scotia
8. 1979 Fleetwood Mac album
9. Modern day typewriter
10. SHE-ep
11. Bert Bobbsey's twin
12. Rumpus
13. Trough locale
21. Sci-Fi villain Vader
22. Provide with weapons
26. Hospital heroines and heros
27. Outlandish occurrence
28. Hurt
29. Wrongdoings, in law
30. __ Strait (British Columbia body of water)
32. Veggie in a salad or a tea party sandwich, fun-style
33. 'Labor __ Vincit' (Oklahoma's state motto)
34. Types of flatbread
35. Remove the furniture paint
36. Ship
39. Capital of Tibet
40. Space shadow
45. Arrival, as crowds of people
46. Uri, for William Tell
49. One of Columbus' ships in 1492
50. Lively old dance of France
51. Pass, as law
52. Type of heron
54. Enjoys the winter resort
55. 1981 Tom Cruise movie
56. Lawyers org. in The States
57. Smidgen
58. "Absolutely.", at sea
59. Mr. Reed

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
You are ambitious today! You have big plans to do big things in a big way, and you want big recognition for your efforts.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
You are excited about big travel plans for the future. Or perhaps your big ideas are about exploring opportunities in higher education, publishing, the media, medicine and the law.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
You will be confident when it comes to deciding how to share something today, like an inheritance. Be careful you are not so cocky that you give away the farm.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
If you have a conflict with a close friend or partner today, you might be overbearing. This is because you believe in what you want, and you believe you will get it!

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
You can accomplish a lot today because you are energetic, enthusiastic and confident. This state of mind is all you need to get great results.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Romance is strong today because your desiring nature is strong. However, you actively will seek out amusement and fun diversions. It's a great day for competitive sports!

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
You are willing to move mountains to achieve what you want at home, especially regarding redecorating projects or renovations. (Librans care about how their home looks.)

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You are so confident in your communications with others today that you will succeed in sales, marketing, teaching, acting and writing. You're the poster child for the power of positive thinking. .

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You are willing to work hard to earn money today. You're ready to spend your money, as well! You've got big ideas that you intend to put into action.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Today your energy level is high! This is why you will accomplish a great deal and bring certain projects to a successful conclusion. Go, go, go!

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
If you work alone or behind the scenes today, you will feel happy. You will be proud of your achievements and hopeful for big results down the road.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Your ability to work in conjunction with others today is top-notch. Your enthusiasm and energy will make you the leader of the pack.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

4	7		2			1		
1							5	
			6					7
9		2		4				
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	3							4
		6			4		1	2

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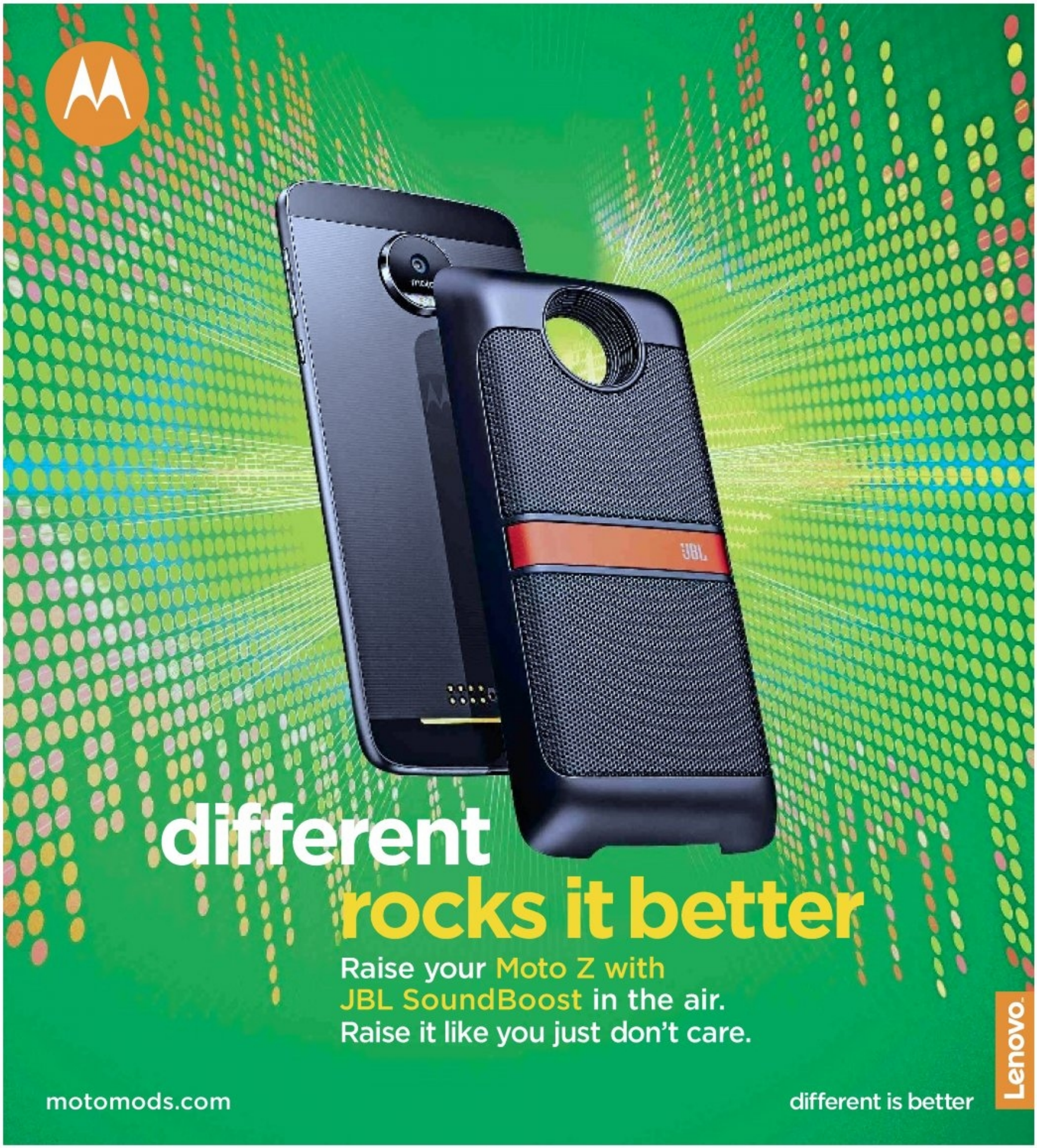

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